

ONCE UPON A CHASSID

The Wisdom and the Whimsy
The Fire and the Joy

Stories, Anecdotes & Sayings
translated and adopted from the writings of the
Rebbes and Chassidim of Chabad Lubavitch
Arranged in conjunction with the 54 sections of the Torah

By Yanki Tauber

Reprinted for Parshat Vayeitzei, 5786
(Vol. 7)



Published and Copyrighted by
Vaad L'hafotzas Sichos

788 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Tel. (718) 774-7200 - Fax. (718) 774-7494

5759 ♦ 1999

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Horav **Schneur Zalman Halevi** ע"ה
 ben Horav **Yitzchok Elchonon Halevi** ה"ד
Shagalov
 Passed away on 21 Tamuz, 5766
 Reb **Dovid Asniel** ben Reb **Eliyahu** ע"ה
Ekman
 Passed away on 5 Sivan - Erev Shavuot, 5765
 Mrs. **Devora Rivka** bas Reb **Yosef Eliezer** ע"ה
Marenburg
 Passed away on the second day
 of Rosh Chodesh Adar, 5766
 Reb **Yitzchok Moshe** (Ian)
 ben Reb **Dovid Asniel** ע"ה
Ekman (Santiago, Chile)
 Passed away on the 24th day of Shevat, 5769
 ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.
AND IN HONOR OF
 Mrs. **Esther Shaindel** bas **Fraidel Chedva** שתח'ל
Shagalov
DEDICATED BY
 Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Y. and Gittel Rochel** שיחי
Shagalov

Reprinted with permission of:

"Vaad L'Hafotzas Sichos"

by:

Moshiach Awareness Center,

a Project of:

Enlightenment For The Blind, Inc.

602 North Orange Drive.

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tel.: (323) 934-7095 * Fax: (323) 934-7092

<http://www.torah4blind.org>

e-mail: yy@torah4blind.org

Rabbi Yosef Y. Shagalov,

Executive Director

Printed in the U.S.A.

30:30

ועתה מתי אעשה גם אנכי לביתי

But when will I do something for my own self?

Selfless to a Fault

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok of Lubavitch once said:

There was a time when they used to say the truth. And it worked.

Once a chassidic businessman came to my grandfather, Rabbi Shmuel of Lubavitch. This was a man who always kept the *Gates of Light* and *The Gate of Faith*¹ in his breast pocket and was fluent in both.

During his private audience with Rabbi Shmuel, the latter inquired as to his daily schedule. “What do you do before the morning prayers?” asked the Rebbe.

The chassid replied that he studies the G-dly concepts which are expounded upon in the teachings of chassidism, and then meditates upon them both during and following his prayers. The Rebbe continued to go through the chassid’s

1. Two books of chassidic philosophy by Rabbi DovBer of Lubavitch, known for their depth and profundity.

Vayeitzei / Selfless to a Fault

entire day: every available minute was likewise occupied in the pursuit of the Divine.

“And what of the reading of the sh’mah before sleep?” the Rebbe finished. Then too the chassid thought *chassidus*.

“So you are forever thinking of G-d,” said the Rebbe, “but when do you think of yourself?”

The chassid fell in a dead faint.

The Rebbe summoned the servant, Reb Pinyeh Leib, to carry the chassid out of the room and revive him. “One needn’t faint,” the Rebbe remarked, “one must *do*...”

Source:

Sefer Hasichos 5705 [Talks of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok of Lubavitch 1944-45], P. 89

2. Traditionally a time for soul-searching and stock-taking of the bygone day.

Once Upon A Chassid

31:42

ואת יגיע כפי

...and the toil of my hands

If of the toil of your hands you eat, fortunate are you...

Psalms 128:2

"The toil of your hands" should be invested in earning a living - leave your head free for more worthy pursuits.

Hassidic saying

Curious Headgear

A chassid of Rabbi Sholom DovBer of Lubavitch opened a plant for the manufacture of galoshes. Soon his every waking hour and thought was occupied in his new and flourishing business.

Said the Rebbe to him: "To insert one's feet into galoshes is a fairly common practice; but a head in galoshes ...?"

Source:

Likkutei Sichos [Collected Talks of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneersohn, the Lubavitcher Rebbe shlita], vol. 1, p. 224.

BESURAS HAGEULO

The Announcement Of The Redemption

7

Maimonides writes:

"In that era¹ there will be neither famine nor war..."

A foretaste of this peaceful state can be realized even in the last moments of exile. For even as "the nations are provoking one another," and "The king of Persia provokes the Arabian king... and all the nations are in turmoil and terror," the Jewish people are experiencing a state of tranquillity and peace, since "G-d says to them 'My children, do not fear. Whatever I have done, I have done only for your sake... the time for your Redemption has arrived.'" Furthermore, "The 'King Moshiach' - the Redeemer of Israel - 'stands on the roof of the Beis HaMikdash... and says, 'Humble ones, the time for your Redemption has arrived.'"²

(From the talk of Shabbos Parshas Vayitzei, 7 Kislev, 5751)

-
1. Rambam, conclusion of his work *Mishneh Torah*.
 2. *Yalkut Shimoni, Yeshayahu, remez 499*.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REDEMPTION

50

The subject that is most urgent in our generation and our time is - the true and complete Redemption through our righteous Moshiach. As has been mentioned many times of late, now all the requirements have already been concluded, we need only receive our righteous Moshiach in actual reality.

All the more so in our generation and our time, when according to the signs of our Sages of blessed memory (in the tractate *Sanhedrin*, in Midrashim and in many places) we are actually on the verge of the Redemption.

As mentioned many times recently, that after our many great achievements and Divine service throughout the generations, and specifically after the Divine service of our Rebbeim and leaders through the Divine service of my sainted father-in-law, the leader of our generation, all necessary spiritual purifications have been accomplished.

This also includes the spiritual purification of "Aisev [Esau] is Edom."¹ Aisev is already completely spiritually purified, as we see how the nations at this time (in the exile of Edom²), which stem from "Aisev is Edom," conduct themselves as benevolent governments. Such conduct has spread to other nations, as we have seen, especially of late.

1. *Vayishlach* 36:1.

2. *[The Jewish people have endured four exiles, each named after the dominant country or culture of the time. These were the Egyptian exile, the Babylonian, the Greek and the Roman. Edom is the Biblical ancestor of the Roman people, whose empire still persists both in a spiritual sense and in a physical sense in the domination of European civilization and its derivatives. Translator's note.]*

BESURAS HAGEULO

It's therefore understood that now the situation is already one in which the physical body, and even the physicality of the world, is completely purified and refined. It is a "vessel" receptive to all the spiritual lights and concepts, primarily the light³ of our righteous Moshiach, the light of the true and complete Redemption.

And the only thing missing is that a Jew should open his eyes as he should, when he will see that all is ready for the Redemption! There is already the Shulchan Aruch (the Set Table); there is already the Livyosan, the Shor HaBor and the Yayin Meshumar.⁴ The Jewish people already sit by the table, "the table of their Father"⁵ (the Holy One Blessed be He), together with our righteous Moshiach. (As is stated in holy books⁶ that in every generation there is "one descended from Yehuda who is qualified to be Moshiach"). In our generation this is the leader of our generation, my sainted father-in-law. And now forty years after the passing of my sainted father-in-law we also have already "a heart to know and eyes to see and ears to hear."⁷

We must now only open the "heart to know" and open "the eyes to see" and open the "ears to hear." Likewise we must utilize all 248 physical limbs and 365 physical sinews in the learning of the inner aspects of the Torah, as revealed in the teachings of Chassidus and observing the directives of our Rabbeim and leaders.⁸ These

3. Zohar section 3 34:b. Cited and explained in *Likkutei Levi Yitzchak* on the Zohar, section 3, p. 219 ff.

4. See *Brochos* 34:b. *Bava Basra* 75:a. *Vayikra Rabba* Chapter 13:3. And in other sources.

5. *Brochos* 3, end of side a.

6. Commentary of the Bartenura on *Megillas Rus*. And see also *Sha'alos U'teshuvos Chasam Sofer Choshen Mishpat* (vol. 6) at the end (section 98). And see *S'dei Chemed*, *Peas HaSadeh*, entry Aleph , Klal 70. And elsewhere.

7. *Tavo* 29:3.

8. In addition to learning Torah and observing mitzvos in general (the 248 positive commandments corresponding to the 248 limbs (*macos* 23, end of side

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REDEMPTION

directives include learning about the concepts of Redemption, in a way that will open the heart, eyes and ears. That is, one must understand, see and hear in the physicality of the world the true and complete Redemption in actual reality. One should learn the Torah of Moshiach (the inner aspects of Torah) in a way of seeing. All of the above is already prepared; one need only open the eyes to see it!

Also the custom of the Jewish people which is continually spreading in our time, to learn the subject of Redemption and Moshiach, in order to prepare himself and others even more for the revelation of the true and complete Redemption, as mentioned above.

(From the talk of Shabbos Parshas Vayeitze, 9 Kislev 5752)

b) and the 365 negative commandments corresponding to the 365 sinews (*Zohar*, volume I, 170b.)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Reb Eliyahu Tzvi ben Reb Moshe ע"ה Tamir
Passed away on 14 Kislev, 5777

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

DEDICATED BY
Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef Y. and Gittel Rochel שיחי Shagalov

* * *

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Reb Reuvein ben Reb Mordechai Yaakov HaKohen ע"ה Caplan
Passed away on 11 Tishrei, 5778

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

AND IN HONOR OF HIS WIFE - שתבלחט"א

Mrs. Elka bas Raizel שתחי Caplan

May she go from strength to strength
in health, happiness, Torah and *mitzvot*.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FREIND
Reb Yosef Yisroel ben Reb Sholom ע"ה Rosner
Passed away on 7 Menachem-Av, 5777

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

DEDICATED BY HIS FRIENDS
Mr. & Mrs. Gershon and Leah שיחיו Wolf
Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef Y. and Gittel Rochel שיחיו Shagalov

* * *

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR FREIND
Reb Pesach Betzalel ben Reb Leib ע"ה Fleischman
Passed away on 3 Elul, 5784

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

DEDICATED BY HIS FRIEND
Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef Y. and Gittel Rochel שיחיו Shagalov

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND
Mrs. Esther (Monique) bas Reb Shmuel ע"ה Mariani
on the occasion of her Shloshim, 8 Kislev, 5786

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

DEDICATED BY HER FRIENDS תחיינה

היי שותף בהפצת עניני "משיח וגאולה"!!!
להקדשות ולפרטים נוספים:
טל.: 753-6844 (718) או 934-7095 (323)
אימייל: info@torah4blind.org

Be A Partner
In Spreading *Inyonei Moshiach U'geula!!!*
To Dedicate This Publication
In Honor Of Your Family Or A Loved One
For More Info. Call:
(718) 753-6844 or (323) 934-7095
or email: info@torah4blind.org

JEWISH CHILDREN:
Get your own letter in a Sefer Torah!
<http://www.kidstorah.org>

For this and other books on Moshiach & Geulah, go to:
<http://www.torah4blind.org>
TO DEDICATE AN ISSUE IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE, CALL (323) 934-7095